

Healthy and productive individuals, families, and communities are the very foundation of the nation's security and prosperity. Through its leadership, HHS impacts virtually all Americans and people around the world, whether through direct services, the benefits of advances in science, or information that helps them to live better and to make healthy choices.

In a society that is diverse in culture, language, and ethnicity, HHS also manages an array of programs that aim to close the gaps and eliminate disparities in health status and access to health services that increase opportunities for disadvantaged individuals to work and lead productive lives.

With a new Administration and the events of September 11th, HHS adjusted its priorities. Secretary Thompson has identified specific high priority goals needing urgent attention, including preparedness for bio-terrorism incidents and enhanced food safety. These priorities are consistent with the HHS strategic plan, which contains six broad goal categories for carrying out the HHS mission:

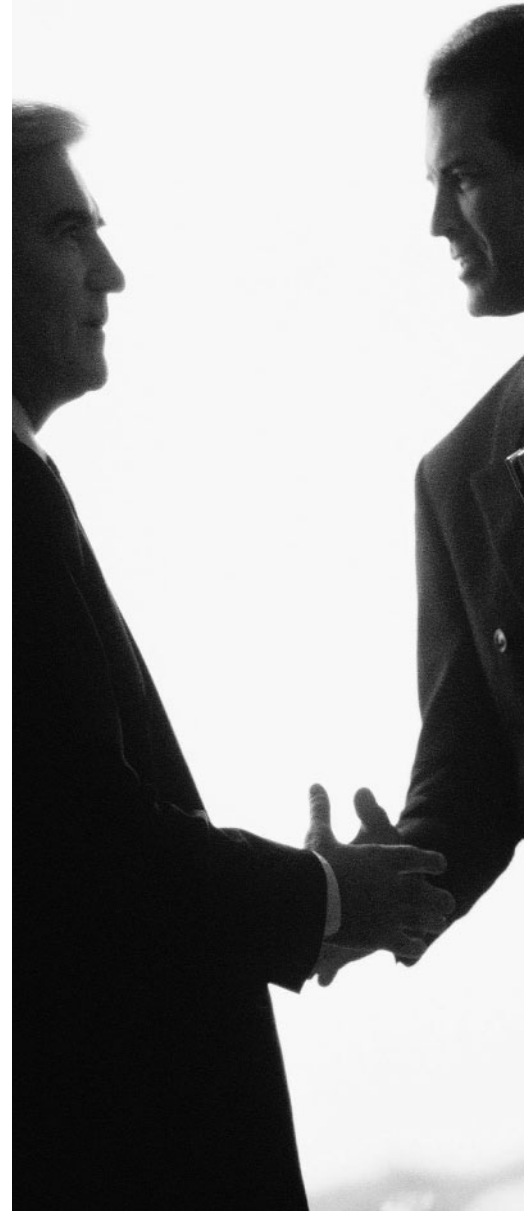
- *Reduce the major threats to the health and productivity of all Americans;*
- *Improve the economic and social well being of individuals, families, and communities in the United States;*

- *Improve access to health services and ensure the integrity of the nation's health entitlement and safety net programs;*
- *Improve the quality of health care and human services;*
- *Improve the nation's public health systems; and*
- *Strengthen the nation's health science research enterprise and enhance its productivity.*

Scope of Services

Through managing over 300 programs, HHS is working toward accomplishing these goals that cut across individual HHS components and programs. For example, HHS works directly and with its partners to:

- *Conduct and sponsor medical and social science research to improve Americans' health and well being;*
- *Guard against the outbreak of infectious diseases through immunization services and the elimination of envi-*



HHS' Mission

To enhance the health and wellbeing of Americans by providing for effective health and human services and by fostering strong, sustained advances in the sciences underlying medicine, public health, and social services.

ronmental health hazards near people's homes and work places;

- ✱ *Assure the safety of food and drugs;*
- ✱ *Provide health insurance for elderly and disabled Americans, low-income people, and children;*
- ✱ *Promote the availability of home and community based services;*
- ✱ *Provide financial assistance and employment support services for low-income families;*
- ✱ *Facilitate child support enforcement;*
- ✱ *Improve maternal and infant health;*
- ✱ *Improve preschool development and learning readiness;*
- ✱ *Prevent child abuse and domestic violence;*
- ✱ *Prevent and treat substance abuse;*
- ✱ *Provide mental health services; and*
- ✱ *Provide services for older Americans, including home-delivered meals.*

HHS' Organization: Structured to Accomplish our Mission

HHS is made up of components that administer its many complex and important programs. All of these components and the Program Support Center, which provides centralized administrative support, are under the leadership of the Office of the Secretary of HHS.

Below is a list of each HHS component:

CENTERS FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID SERVICES (FORMERLY KNOWN AS HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION)

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION

AGENCY FOR TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND DISEASE REGISTRY

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUALITY

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

ADMINISTRATION ON AGING

A more detailed discussion of the Office of the Secretary and each of the components is located in Appendix A.

HHS Partners: Working Together

The achievement of HHS' mission and goals, the success of HHS' programs, and the ability of HHS to meet the needs of clients are directly tied to the com-

mitment, cooperation, and success generated by other federal agencies, state and local governments, tribal organizations, community-based organizations, and other organizations.

HHS provides direct services for the underserved populations of America, including American Indians and Alaska Natives. However, for many programs, HHS' partners provide the direct services and have much more discretion in how the programs are implemented. In those cases, HHS contributes to accomplishing the programs and the strategic goals through funding, technical assistance, information dissemination, education, training, research and demonstrations.

Often the needs of individuals and families go beyond individual HHS programs. Frequently, programs are only focused on one particular need of a recipient because of the specific authority and funding for the program. However, to meet all the needs of a person, an integrated and comprehensive approach must be crafted with other HHS programs, other federal agencies, and HHS' partners. HHS therefore works internally and with its many, diverse partners to plan and deliver services in a coordinated way that maximizes resources and provides an integrated approach to clients' needs. For example:

- ✱ *HHS is the largest grant-making agency in the federal government - providing more than \$184 billion of the total estimated \$325 billion in federal funds awarded to states and other entities in FY 2001;*

✿ *HHS funds more than 50,000 research investigators affiliated with about 2,000 university, hospital, and other research facilities;*

✿ *HHS helps fund and foster a nationwide network of more than 3,000 sites that provided needed primary and preventive care to 10.5 million medically underserved patients last year;*

✿ *Another nationwide network that HHS supports is the Aging Network. The Aging Network includes 56 state units on aging, 655 area agencies on aging, 233 tribal and native organizations representing 300 American Indian and Alaska Native tribal organizations, and two organizations serving Native Hawaiians, plus 27,000 service providers and adult care centers, and innumerable caregivers and volunteers;*

✿ *Nation-wide networks of state agencies provide substance abuse and mental health services;*

✿ *Nearly 40,000 providers of health care are certified to provide Medicare services and 22,400 employees of 49 Medicare contractors have primary responsibility for processing Medicare claims; and*

✿ *Approximately 18,500 centers and 48,500 classrooms help to provide comprehensive development services with HHS support under the Head Start program for about 905,000 low-income pre-school children, ages birth to five, including approximately 55,000 children under the age of three served through Early Head Start.*

These are just a few examples of the scope of the services that HHS and its partners provide.

